

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE PARTICIPANTS



UNICA

RESEARCH

MEETING

Share knowledge, exchange ideas, and connect with fellow colleagues working in research strategy across the network

2-3 December 2024

Brussels

Usquare + University Foundation



Contents

Contents	2
Venues	3
Arriving in Brussels	3
Public transport & taxis	5
Recommended sights.....	8
Wining and dining in Brussels	8
Contact with the UNICA office:.....	9

Venues

2 December



**Usquare.brussels (VUB - ULB)
BriAS auditorium (AB building)**

Address: Avenue de la Couronne 229, 1050 Ixelles

Participants can reach the venue via the inner courtyard of the Usquare site via access 1 (229 avenue de la Couronne, then walk along the building to the AB auditorium. Please note that there is no direct access to the auditorium from inside the building.

Map: <https://www.ulb.be/en/maps-directions/usquare>

3 December



Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Campus Etterbeek

Address: Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Brussels
Meeting room “Zaal Weber” (1st floor)

Map: <https://www.vub.be/en/about-vub/faculties-institutes-and-campus/our-campus/vub-main-campus-brussels/campus-map>

Arriving in Brussels

Brussels International (Zaventem) Airport, BRU (www.brusselsairport.be) is situated in Zaventem, 14 km outside the city centre.

JOURNEY FROM BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

- **BY TRAIN:** The airport train station is located below the Arrivals Terminal (Level-1). Up to 4 trains per hour connect the airport to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels Midi stations. Information on the schedule of trains can be found on the Belgian Railways website (www.belgiantrain.be), where you can also **buy tickets online**. Enter BRUSSELS AIRPORT as departure station. The first train departs at 5.27 a.m. and the last one - at 0.27 a.m.
 - **On your way FROM the Airport: Buy your ticket online, at the ticket desk or in one of the vending machines before boarding.**
 - **On your way TO the Airport: Buy your ticket online, in one of the SNCB vending machines located at every train station. Don't throw away your ticket immediately upon arrival to the Brussels Airport. You will need to scan it at the automated access gates!**



Price per ticket (2nd class): € 9.30

- **BY BUS:** The bus station is located on level 0 – just one floor down from the Arrivals Terminal. The STIB/MIVB Airport Line connects Brussels International Airport to the European quarter (housing the EU institutions). Bus 12 takes you daily, from morning till evening, to the European district. The Airport Line offers a connection with the metro at Schuman (lines 1-5) and at Trône/Troon (lines 2-6).

Buy your ticket from the GO ticket vending machines before boarding. The vending machines accept Maestro bank cards, credit cards and coins. Tickets bought from the driver are more expensive.

Fares

- Single journey (purchased outside vehicle) : **€ 7,00**
- Single journey (purchased inside vehicle) : **€ 7,50**

More information: www.stib.be. You can visit the mobile website m.stib.be or download the STIB application for iPhone or Android (available in English).

- **BY TAXI:** Taxis with a taximeter are available in front of the airport arrivals hall. The fare from the airport to the city centre of Brussels is approximately **€45-60**. Licensed taxis can be recognised by the blue and yellow emblem. You are advised to avoid unlicensed taxis! Mobility providers like Uber or Bolt are also available in Brussels. For these services, pick-up point is usually in P1 front parking, in a specific floor.

Since this might be subject to change, so to find your pickup location, always check the Uber app after you request a ride.

JOURNEY FROM BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT:

Brussels South Charleroi Airport, CRL (www.charleroi-airport.com) is located in Charleroi-Gosselies, 66 kilometers south of Brussels. The airport serves low-cost and charter airlines.

HOW TO REACH THE BRUSSELS CITY CENTRE FROM BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT

- **By shuttle bus** (flibco.com) The shuttle bus connects the airport with Brussels South Railway Station (Bruxelles Midi/Brussel Zuidstation; the bus stops at the intersection of Rue de France and Rue de l'Instruction). The shuttle bus leaves the airport every 30 minutes and the journey takes about 45 minutes, depending on the traffic. For the bus schedule please visit <https://www.flibco.com/en/timetable>.

Buy your ticket online or from the sales desk just outside the airport building.

Fares

For 1 journey (single ticket): max. **€15,50**. Return ticket: **€31**

- **Door2Gate** is a shared shuttle solution that will pick you up directly from a place you indicate and drop you off at the airport at the time you wish to arrive, and vice-versa.

Fares

The price for one ride varies according to the time and date, starting at **€ 29.99** per person.

- **By bus & train:** the airport is only 20 minutes from Charleroi Sud station. Once there, it is possible to take a direct bus (line A) to the airport. A "combined" train + bus ticket is available. Both ticket machines are outside the Terminal near Door 2. You can pay using cash or credit/debit card. You can also buy the ticket online at <https://www.belgiantrain.be/en>

Combined fare – bus & train ticket (one way): **€15,90**

Public transport & taxis

You can easily purchase public transport tickets in numerous STIB/MIVB **GO ticket vending machines**. The machines operate in French, Dutch, and English, and accept Maestro and credit cards, and coins.

You can also pay contactless on the whole STIB-MIVB network. This means you can directly validate your trip using your debit card, credit card, smartphone or smartwatch. This option is cheaper.

Apart from getting single-fare tickets (€2,60 if bought in a GO machine, €2,10 if paid contactless), you may also buy a **24-hour ticket** (€7.80) – once validated, allows an unlimited number of journeys on the entire public transport network of trams, buses, trains and the underground within Brussels on the given day until the end of service (except for the NATO-Brussels Airport section of line 12). To purchase this ticket, you need to be in possession of a personal MOBIB card or MOBIB Basic. The card costs €5 and can be obtained in one of our KIOSK, BOOTIK or via GO Easy. More information is available [on STIB website](#).



TAXIS

Taxis Verts: To order your taxi, call at **+32 (0)2 349 49 49** (service in French, Dutch, and English). Taxis Verts accept payments by credit cards.

Taxis Bleus: To order your taxi, call at **+32 (0)2 268 00 00** (service in French, Dutch, and English)

IMPORTANT: You should only take taxis with on-board taxi meters. Once arrived at your destination, you can ask for a taxi meter receipt. The receipt will contain details of your trip and can be used as an expense note.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTE PLANNERS

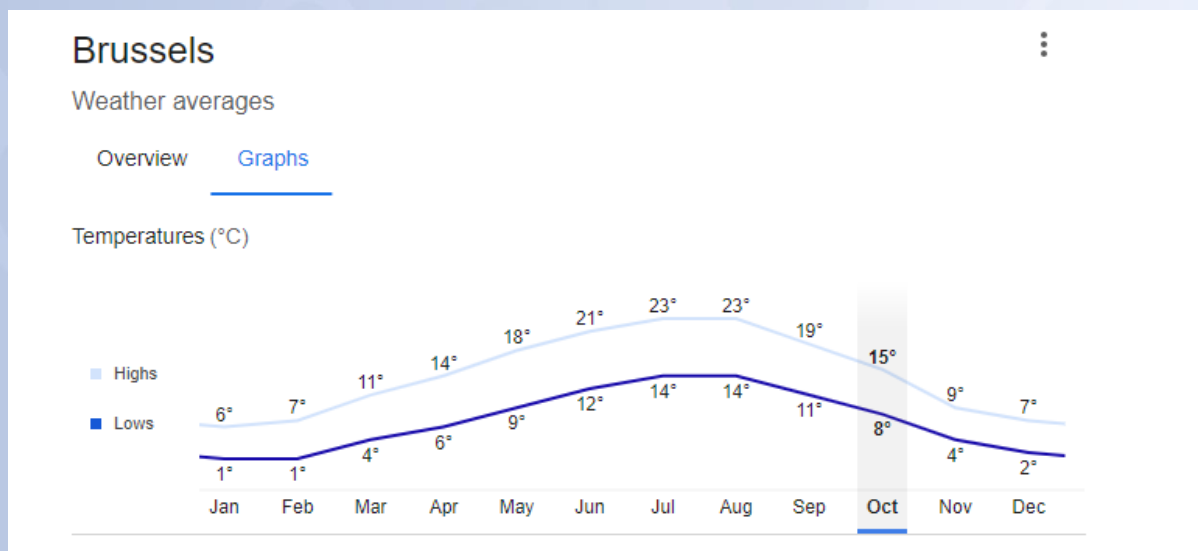
In order to plan your journey to the venue(s) from your hotel or any place in the city, we encourage you to use the public transport planners:

- Google Maps & Street View: www.maps.google.com; for information on the public transport choose the train icon
- STIB/MIVB: <http://www.stib.be/reisweg-itineraire.html?l=en>

Belgium and Brussels must-know

Weather

On average, Brussels has approximately 200 days of rainfall per year, more than London and Paris. No matter how optimistic the weather forecast may be, you should always be prepared for rain in Brussels. Warm and sunny weather is rarely constant, and the humid air makes the weather feel often colder than it is.



Language

Brussels operates as a bilingual city where both French and Dutch (Flemish) are official languages. Given the location of EU institutions in Brussels, English is also a widely spoken language.

Currency & ATMs

The currency used in Belgium is €/EUR. Cashpoints/ATM can be found all over Brussels.

In addition to some places working on a cash-only policy, sometimes debit and credit cards from foreign countries also fail to work. We advise you therefore to always have some physical money with you.

Telephone

To call Belgium you have to dial **0032** + City Area Code (**2** for Brussels if you call to a landline, not necessary for mobile phone numbers) + Number you wish to call.

112 is the national emergency telephone number.

Recommended sights

- ❖ **Galleries Saint Hubert** - designed in 1847, were the first commercial galleries in Europe and remain probably the most elegant; the 200-metre-long street of shops is covered by a glass dome.
- ❖ **Parlamentarium** (Willy Brandt Building, Rue Wiertz 60/ Wiertzstraat 60) The European Parliament's Visitors' Centre. Dynamic, interactive multimedia displays guide visitors through the journey of European integration.
- ❖ **Horta Museum** (Rue Americaine/Amerikaansestraat 25, St-Gilles) - Victor Horta is one of the founders of Art Nouveau. The museum is located in the house that Horta designed for himself.
- ❖ **Musical Instruments Museum** (Rue Montagne de la Cour/Koudenberg 2)- More than 1,500 instruments from around the world are exhibited in this museum, which occupies one of the city's most beautiful and historic Art Nouveau buildings.
- ❖ **The Belgian Comic Strip Centre** (Rue des Sables/Zandstraat 20) chronicles the history of Belgian comic books. Housed in a former department store, it exhibits examples of comic strips in French, Dutch and English.

Wining and dining in Brussels

- o **Arcadi** (Rue d'Arenberg/ Arenberglaan 1B, next to Galleries St Hubert, reservation: +32 2 511 33 43)- is a charming mid-range restaurant situated at the end of Galleries St Hubert. Although it offers a varied menu, the reason the restaurant regulars go there is its selection of over 30 savory, both sweet and salty, pies (*tartes*). Stop by at Arcadi after shopping in Galleries St Hubert for a heavenly slice of *tarte framboise meringue* (raspberry meringue pie) or *tarte forestière* (wild mushroom pie).
- o **Chez Léon** (Rue des Bouchers/Beenhouwersstraat 1, reservation: +32 2 513 04 26) – mid-range restaurant at the end of Brussels' famous dining street, Rue des Bouchers. It offers quick service at any time of the day and serves traditional Belgian dishes at affordable prices, which is not so common in this tourist area of the city. If you would like to try mussels with a pint of Belgian beer, Chez Léon is an excellent choice.
- o **La Mort Subite** (Rue Montagne-aux-Herbes Potagères/Warmoesberg 7, reservation: +32 2 513 13 18 – a perfect place for your first Belgian beer tasting. The place's wood paneling, high ceilings, big marble pillars and mirrored walls will make you feel as if you have just been transported back in time. One of Belgium's brews took its name after this bar, although despite the name's meaning ('sudden death'), the beer is not that strong ☺

What is Brussels known for?

BRUSSELS - A CAPITAL OF MANY THINGS

- ❖ **a capital of Belgium:** Brussels has grown from a 10th-century fortress town founded by a descendant of Charlemagne into a metropolis of more than one million inhabitants and...
- ❖ **a capital of Europe:** Brussels serves as capital of the European Union, hosting the major political institutions of the Union.
- ❖ **a capital of chocolate:** Ever since the Brussels chocolatier Jean Neuhaus invented the praline 100 years ago, the city has been at the forefront of the chocolate business.
- ❖ **a capital of beer:** Belgium produces more than 1,000 varieties of beers, and many come with customized glasses in which only that type may be served. Try the real sour *gueuze* beer: it gets its unique taste from a natural brewing process that is typical for the area around Brussels.
- ❖ **a capital of waffles:** Brussels waffles can be easily differentiated from Liège waffles by their regular shape: they are also crispy and light whereas the latter are denser and sweeter.
- ❖ **a capital of... fries!** Despite their name, the origin of French fries is actually attributed to Belgium. Being probably the most popular forms of "street food", you will find *Frites* in Brussels on every step of the way: you can get them at fast food stands or in small fast-food restaurants called "friterie" or "frituur". They are served with a large variety of sauces: from "traditional" ketchup and mayonnaise to *samurai*, *cocktail*, and *andalouse*.

Contact with the UNICA office:

UNICA - Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA Secretariat

c/o University Foundation, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 2 5147900

office@unica-network.eu

www.unica-network.eu